

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 LAB-06

DRC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 SIL-01 NSCE-00 /073 W

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O 120806Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6708

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11764

TAGS: OVIP/ELAB/JA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY BRENNAN - USE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT

1. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION IS VERY MUCH AGAINST A "U.S. MILITARY PLANE" LANDING AT OSAKA AIRPORT TO PICK UP BRENNAN PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 22. IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING USE OF THE FIELD BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC RESENTMENT. FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT IF PLANE BEARS NO MILITARY MARKINGS IT MAY BE ABLE TO PERSUADE MOT TO ALLOW PLANE TO LAND AT OSAKA. AIR ATTACHE INFORMS US THAT VC-137 WHICH WILL BRING PARTY TO JAPAN HAS MARKINGS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, I.E. "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" WRITTEN ACROSS TOP OF FUSELAGE, LARGE AMERICAN FLAG ON TAIL AND AIR FORCE STAR AND BAR NEXT TO REAR DOOR. EMBASSY NEEDS TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY:

(A) CONFIRMATION THAT AIRCRAFT MARKINGS ARE AS DESCRIBED ABOVE;
(B) CONFIRMATION THAT VC-L 137 WILL BE AIRCRAFT USED FOR OSAKA PICKUP; (C) AND POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING AIR FORCE STAR AND BAR FROM FUSELAGE OR MAKING ANY SUCH MARKINGS AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE.

2. IF USE OF OSAKA AIRPORT BY SPECIAL MISSION AIRCRAFT PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, BRENNAN PARTY WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO TOKYO BY RAIL OR COMMERCIAL AIR FOR DEPARTURE FROM HANEDA.

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COMMENT: IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY IN JAPAN TO USE OF OSAKA AIRPORT
BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND POSSIBILITY THAT ISSUE
MIGHT BE RAISED IN DIET, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD
BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO PUSH FOREIGN OFFICE ON QUESTION OF
LANDING PLANE WITH U.S. MILITARY MARKINGS AT OSAKA AIRPORT.
INGERSOLL

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